



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

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P5, Bill 28

May 8, 2013

CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Aloha Council Chair Martin and members of the Honolulu City Council,

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii (Coalition) strongly supports Bill 28. The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is an independent organization in Hawai'i who works to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a nonprofit organization with over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that work to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

The dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke are well-known. The U.S. Surgeon General, in 2010, notes that any level of exposure to secondhand smoke is dangerous and can be harmful. Bus stops often attract large numbers of people, and commuters have limited opportunities to avoid secondhand smoke in these areas. Growing scientific evidence shows that secondhand smoke has a harmful effect on air quality in some outdoor settings. Studies have shown that when people are in close proximity to each other, the levels of exposure to secondhand smoke can be comparable to secondhand smoke levels measured within enclosed spaces.¹ The Coalition strongly supports this effort in order to protect the health of all people in public spaces.

The Coalition looks forward to working with our city and state governmental agencies, including TheBus, the Department of Health, the Honolulu Police Department, and any other stakeholders, to ensure a successful implementation of this new policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Annie Hollis, Public Health Policy & Advocacy Director
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii

¹ Global Smokefree Partnership. (2009). "The Trend Toward Smokefree Outdoor Areas." Accessed from <http://www.globalSmokefree.com/gsp/resources/recorso.php?id=225> on May 6, 2013.